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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Takashi KUMAGAI et al.

Serial No.: 09/829,239

Filed: April 9, 2001

For: COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, COMMUNICATION METHOD,
DISTRIBUTION APPARATUS, DISTRIBUTION METHOD,
AND TERMINAL APPARATUS

Group A.U.: 2171

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

As a means of complying with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 CFR § 1.56 and in keeping with the guidelines of 37 CFR § 1.98, Applicants hereby submit information thought to be relevant to the examination of the above-identified application. Also submitted herewith is a completed form PTO-1449.

This information came to light during the examination of a counterpart application in the European Patent Office in a

Search Report dated December 17, 2001. Accordingly, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item submitted herewith is being submitted within three months from the date of that Search Report.

U.S. Patent No. 5,956,488 (Suzuki) apparently relates to a multimedia server and multimedia data access scheme. The server is capable of reducing a number of accesses to memory devices with low access speed to improve performance during interactive operations. Whether multimedia data requested by one terminal connected with one input/output unit is present in a buffer of another input/output unit is determined, and the desired data is transferred to a buffer of that input/output unit, from a multimedia storage device when the desired data is not present, or from a buffer of the other input/output unit when the data is determined to be present.

U.S. Patent No. 5,724,575 (Hoover et al.) apparently relates to a method and system for object-based relational distributed databases. The system transforms data stored in a plurality of remote heterogeneous user databases into a homogenous data model. The data are homogenized by mapping into object attributes of predetermined instances of objects conforming to a conceptual model relating the various databases. The object attributes are stored in remote databases at client sites, which can be separate computer systems from the heterogeneous user databases or separate processes running on a computer system that maintains the heterogeneous user databases. The system stores location

information and status information relating to the homogenized data in a centralized object broker for object management, to facilitate location and retrieval of data items from one or more of the remote heterogeneous user databases.

U.S. Patent No. 5,610,841 (Tanaka et al.) apparently relates to a video server in which each media segment file server stores media segment files forming video data and sequence control brokers installed between the video server and subscriber terminals to receive video requests and read the requested media segment files from the servers. The read media segment files are exchanged by an ATM switch to be transmitted to the sequence control brokers, which output the media segment files at predetermined intervals to the subscriber terminals.

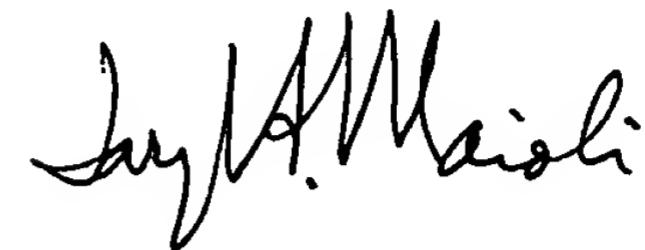
PCT Patent Application No. WO 96/41285 (Kenner et al.) apparently relates to a video clip storage and retrieval system and method for delivery of video data over a computer network. The video clips can be stored locally or remotely and can be requested and retrieved by a user via a multimedia terminal. The system is divided into database index managers, extended storage and retrieval units, data sequencing interfaces, local storage and retrieval units, and user terminal modules.

No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, if a fee is required for this submission, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fee to our Deposit Account

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NO. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP



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JHM/AVF
Enclosure